



PUBLIC NOTICE

Date posted: X/X/XX

DEQ Requests Comments on Proposed Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort Water Quality Permit Renewal

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT

Facility name: Meadows Utilities Co., LLC

Permit type: NPDES Domestic Minor

Comments due by: [Date] at 5 p.m.

Send written comments to:

By mail: Patty Isaak, Oregon DEQ
800 SE Emigrant Ave, Suite 330, Pendleton, OR
97801

By email: water.permitter@deq.oregon.gov

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites the public to provide written comments on the conditions of Meadows Utilities Co., LLC's (doing business as the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort) proposed water quality permit, known officially as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

Summary

Subject to public review and comment, DEQ intends to renew the proposed water quality permit, which allows the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant to discharge wastewater to the Upper East Fork Hood River.

About the facility

Meadows Utilities Co., LLC has applied for a water quality permit renewal for its sanitary wastewater collection and treatment facilities at the Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort located at 14040 Highway 35 on Mount Hood. DEQ last renewed this permit on April 21, 2020.

Sanitary wastewater generated by the resort's food service establishments, laundry, day care center, restrooms, offices, rental, sales and maintenance shops, and the on-site Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital Mountain Clinic is conveyed to an activated sludge sewage treatment plant located approximately one mile south of the resort. The treated wastewater contains several regulated pollutants such as biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, pH, temperature, and bacteria.

The Mt. Hood Meadows facility discharges to the Upper East Fork Hood River near River Mile 26, upstream of the Highway 35 bridge crossing. This section of the river is listed as impaired (Category 4 or 5) for two pollutants according to the most recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved integrated report for Oregon. The proposed permit reflects effluent limits established through reasonable potential analysis, best available technology, or the Western Hood Subbasin Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL, for temperature.

The most recent DEQ inspection of the Mt. Hood Meadows facility was on October 25, 2023. DEQ did not identify violations during this inspection. The facility has had several water quality violations in the past permit

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term. The issues related to these past compliance issues have been resolved and the facility is currently operating in full compliance.

The facility holds no other permits from DEQ.

What types of pollutants does the permit regulate?

This permit sets conditions for how the facility deals with the following pollutants: biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), bacteria, pH, temperature, and BOD₅ and TSS removal efficiency.

The facility treats wastewater solids to produce biosolids for beneficial reuse on agricultural lands located in Wasco Count. The biosolids program including the beneficial use sites are described in the biosolids management/land application plan. As part of this permit renewal, the plan will be updated during the next permit term and will be made available for public comment.

Would the draft permit change the amount of pollution the facility is allowed to release?

Yes. The draft water quality permit would change the amount of pollution the facility can discharge by setting more stringent limits for pH.

Pollutant	Change
pH	Reduce allowable range of pH

How did DEQ determine permit requirements?

DEQ evaluates types and amounts of pollutants and the water quality of the surface water or groundwater where the pollutants are proposed to be discharged and determines permit requirements to ensure the proposed discharges will meet applicable statutes, rules, regulations and effluent guidelines of Oregon and the Clean Water Act.

For this proposed permit action, DEQ evaluated the permittee's permit renewal application, annual reports, TMDLs and discharge monitoring reports. These materials may be viewed in person at the DEQ offices located at: 800 SE Emigrant Ave, Suite 330 in Pendleton or 700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600 in Portland.

DEQ relied solely on these documents and made no other discretionary decisions for the permit action.

How does DEQ monitor compliance with the permit requirements?

This permit will require the facility to monitor pollutants discharged using approved monitoring practices and standards. DEQ reviews the facility's discharge monitoring reports to check for compliance with permit limits.

What happens next?

Submit comments by sending an email or using mail service addressed to the permit coordinator listed in the "how to provide public comment" box above.

DEQ will hold a public hearing if it receives written requests for a hearing during the public comment period from at least 10 people or from an organization representing at least 10 people.

DEQ will consider and respond to all comments received and may modify the proposed permit based on comments.

For more information

Find more information by reviewing draft permit documents attached to this notice, or contact Patty Isaak, at water.permiter@deq.oregon.gov or 541-613-1125 with questions or to view documents in person at a DEQ office.

Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in the administration of its programs and activities. Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).

Applicant Review